

Cancel Claim 4.

Amend the claims 1, 2, 3, 5, and 14 as follows:

1. (Once amended) A method of removing an N-terminal alanyl group from a [recombinant] protein which comprises contacting said [recombinant] protein with *Aeromonas proteolytica* aminopeptidase such that said N-terminal alanyl group is removed and recovering the resulting [recombinant] protein, wherein said contacting is carried out at a pH from about pH 7 to about pH 11.
2. (Once amended) A method of claim 1 wherein said [recombinant] protein is of eukaryotic origin.
  3. (Once amended) A method of claim 2, wherein said [recombinant] protein is selected from the group consisting of human growth hormone (HGH), bovine somatotropin (bST), porcine somatotropin (pST), and human tissue factor pathway inhibitor (TFPI).
4. ~~(Canceled) A method of claim 1, wherein said contacting is carried out at a pH from about pH 7 to about pH 11.~~
5. (Once amended) A method of claim 1[4], wherein said contacting is carried out at a pH from about pH 8 to about pH 10.
14. (Once amended) A method of claim 1, wherein said aminopeptidase is not immobilized [(carried out in free solution)].